

- (a) the total turnover of the SAIL units in the country during 1996-97;
- (b) whether the cost of production is increasing due to hike in coal prices;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the steps taken to contain the losses in SAIL units;
- (e) whether the SAIL is planning to install captive coal mines for consumption of coal; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) Total turnover of SAIL units in the country for financial year 1996-97 will be known only after the close of the financial year.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The cost of production of Saleable Steel is increasing due to hike in the coal prices. Increase in prices of coking coal by 15% and 12% w.e.f. 1.4.1996 and 2.10.1996 respectively is estimated to have an impact of Rs.410 crores on an annualised basis.

(d) SAIL has taken various steps to improve its profitability, which include modernisation and technological upgradation of its plants; improved quality product-mix and products in line with market requirement; improving techno-economic factors i.e. reduction in coke rate, energy consumption, metallic input, improvement in yield; improving availability of equipment through effective maintenance; strict control and reduction in cost of production etc.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. SAIL has decided to undertake captive mining of coal to augment indigenous coking coal availability. It has been allocated Tasra Block in Jharia Coalfield for captive mining. Steps for completing the necessary formalities have been initiated by SAIL.

Setting up of Radio/TV Stations by Private Sector

*186. SHRI K. PARASURAMAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government propose to permit private sector to set up Radio and TV Stations in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) to (c) The issue of permitting private sector to set up Radio and TV Stations is related to the question of permitting private broadcasting from within the country. This issue will be addressed in the proposed broadcasting bill which is likely to be introduced during the current session of Parliament.

Pending Projects

*187. SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of pending projects of new rail lines and other works under Eastern Railway alongwith the reasons for their pendency;

(b) the original dates for their completion and the cost and time over-run in each project; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to complete these projects expeditiously?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (c)

Sr. No.	Name of Project	Kms	Reasons for Pendency	Original date of completion	Cost over run on date	Time over run as per present target	Steps being taken to complete the project expeditiously
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
New Line							
1.	Laxmikantpur Namkhana	47	Delay in land acquisition	31.3.95 for Laxmikantpur to Kashinagar (Ph-I) TD not fixed for Ph.II beyond Kashinagar.	31 Cr.	2 yrs 09 months	Line completed between Laxmikantpur and Nischintpur (23 Kms) 8 Kms from Nischintpur to Kashinagar would be opened by Dec'97. State Govt is being persuaded to acquire balance land. Adequate funds have been provided.
2.	Mandarhill to Rampurhat via Dumka	130	Final location survey is in progress.	Not yet fixed.	Nil	Nil	Rly has been asked to prepare land acquisition plans and papers after completing Final Location Survey on priority.
Doubling							
3.	Sahibganj link cabin-New Farakka-Malda Town	49.57	Delay in removal of encroachments by State Govt. and damage to new embankment due to floods in 1995.	31.12.93	Rs.24 cr.	5 yrs.	28.61 km has been completed. State Govt has started removal of encroachments in phases and work has started. Adequate funds have been provided. The work is now targetted for completion in Dec'98.